DAWN

METRO South

KARACHI Sunday, January 11, 2026

KARACHI

Sunset	**06:01** pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	**07:17** am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	**8°C**
Maximum	**25°C**
Humidity	**37%**
Outlook	**Sunny**

Holders Palace suffer biggest ever FA Cup shock, City hit 10

Pg.18 SPORT

PTI shifts venue after Sindh govt gives it go-ahead for public meeting

• DC issues NOC for party event at Bagh-i-Jinnah • PTI spokesperson announces rally in front of Quaid's mausoleum, blames govt for wasting their time • Home minister warns of action if rally staged on road• PML-N wants permission revoked, accuses PTI of promoting 'anti-state narrative'

By Imran Ayub

KARACHI: While the government has granted the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf permission to hold their rally at the sprawling Bagh-i-Jinnah despite objections from the PML-N, the opposition party blamed the Sindh administration of "wasting their time" and announced that the public meeting will now be held in front of the Quaid's mausoleum.

In a late night development, PTI spokesperson Fauzia Siddiqui posted on X, formerly Twitter, that the Sindh government wasted their time as the deputy commissioner East had issued a no-objection certificate (NOC) on Saturday evening at 6:30pm.

"The public power witnessed in Karachi yesterday has frightened them; they don't understand what to do now. The people of Karachi will be at the Mazar-e-Quaid public gate at 2 pm with our guest, Chief Minister of KP, Sohail Afridi. We will hold a public meeting at the VIP gate at 2 pm," she stated.

In response, Sindh Home Minister Zia Lanjar warned of strict action if any public meeting was held on the road. "No one is allowed to challenge the writ of the government," he said in a statement.

A visit to the venue on Saturday evening showed that no preparations had been carried out at Bagh-i-Jinnah, as scores of PTI workers gathered on the main road in front of the Quaid's mausoleum near the Numaish traffic intersection.

Earlier in the day, PTI Sindh president Haleem Adil Sheikh visited the venue and told a press conference that Karachi would prove its political loyalty in today's rally, urging Karachiites to be at Bagh-i-Jinnah to become the voice of incarcerated leader Imran Khan.

"The response on January 9 proves that Karachi remains Imran Khan's stronghold and the people of the entire Pakistan stand firmly with him. Now it's time for another power show that will prove that this city firmly stands with Imran Khan," he added.

Earlier, Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon announced that a conditional NOC had been issued by the DC-East, placing strict conditions on the PTI leadership and rally organisers.

He said full responsibility for law and order, traffic management and adherence to security protocols would rest with the organisers. At the same time, the district administration retained the authority to revoke permission on security grounds at any time.

PTI workers gather at the under-construction corridor of BRT Red Line between Mazar-i-Quaid and Bagh-i-Jinnah on Saturday evening to make arrangements for their rally to be held today.—Fahim Siddiqi / White Star

PML-N urges PPP to revoke persmission

Earlier, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader and federal government's Sindh affairs spokesperson Barrister Raja Khaliq-uz-Zaman Ansari urged the provincial authorities to withdraw the permission, warning that allowing a party he accused of promoting an "anti-state narrative" to hold a public gathering was unacceptable.

Speaking at a press conference, Barrister Ansari likened criticism of military operations to a betrayal of the Constitution and cautioned that permitting such rallies could set a dangerous precedent.

"The party which is accused of promoting an anti-state narrative should not be allowed to hold public rallies. It's unacceptable and poses serious risks. Criticism of security operations is clearly hooliganism as such remarks amount to a betrayal of the Constitution and the state," he added.

He warned that permitting such gatherings could set a dangerous precedent, questioning whether criminal elements or even riverine dacoits could also seek similar permissions in the future.

Barrister Ansari claimed that a recent PTI rally had disrupted Karachi for hours despite attracting fewer than 500 participants, alleging that many attendees were non-local, including Afghan nationals, and asserting that the people of Sindh had effectively rejected the event by staying away.

He also criticised Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Khan Afridi for allegedly questioning the legitimacy of other parties' electoral mandates, calling it an insult to voters across Sindh and other provinces.

Ex-bureaucrat Saeed Mehdi recounts Pakistan's turbulent past in memoirs

The Eyewitness: Standing in the Shadows of Pakistan's History to be formally launched on 12th

By Peerzada Salman

KARACHI: Once considered the country's most powerful bureaucrat and former principal secretary to ex-premier Nawaz Sharif, Muhammad Saeed Mehdi has penned his memoirs, *The Eyewitness: Standing in the Shadows of Pakistan's History*, which offers a gripping insider's account of Pakistan's tumultuous history and recounts pivotal moments that shaped the nation.

This was announced by Lightstone Publishers Managing Director Ameena Saiyid at a press conference held prior to the book launch, which is scheduled to be held on Monday evening, on Saturday evening.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Mehdi, a former principal secretary to ex-prime minister Nawaz Sharif, said: "I have been a witness to history and in this book I intend to tell all. It is a story of two centuries. It may be considered my reflections and recollections. What I have penned down can be taken as living history.

"The book contains my experiences, my successes if any, and my failures in life… The events I have narrated are more descriptive than investigative. I have tried my best to be as correct and precise in narrating events and facts as I saw. I have tried my best not to blow any character out of proportion in praise or criticism… It is in simple words, a mirror on the wall, and the mirror never tells a lie even if you frame it in gold," he added.

He said people may appreciate or critically analyse his humble undertaking, but it's a variety of experiences that shape history, and he leaves it to the historians to unearth the ultimate truth.

"I had the opportunity to see dictators, sycophants and self-declared democrats of this country up close and personal. I have been through so much ups and downs, and seen so much that has been the privilege of very few. It has been a full life and God has been very kind," he said.

Mr Mehdi said: "I first became an interlocutor to history during my period as deputy commissioner of Rawalpindi from 1977 onwards when I saw the process of Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's case unfold in the Supreme Court, including his rousing speech in his defence. I was there when Pakistan's first elected prime minister met his wife and daughter for the last time. And I saw him when he was tragically executed. I saw up close the return of the brave, resilient daughter Benazir Bhutto and went up the plane to welcome her on behalf of the government. It is therefore said that Saeed Mehdi was the last person to meet Mr Bhutto before he was taken to the gallows and the first to meet Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto when she landed at the Lahore airport on April 18, 1986.

He said, "The book also contains experiences of the two

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Cold wave forces govt to revise school opening timings in Sindh

By Waqas Ali Ranjha

KARACHI: As a cold wave gripped Karachi and other parts of the province, the Sindh government has decided to change school opening timings across the province for a period of two weeks.

The decision was made after Education Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah consulted with Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, keeping in view the intensity of the cold spell in various parts of the province.

Under the revised schedule, all government and private educational institutions across Sindh will now open at 9am instead of their earlier timings. However, school dispersal timings will remain unchanged and will follow the existing timetable.

According to an official notification issued by the education department on Saturday, the revised timings will remain in force until January 26.

The measure is aimed at providing relief to students as temperatures have dropped across the province over the past few days and cold weather is expected to intensify in the coming days.

The minimum temperature recorded in Karachi on Saturday was nine degrees Celsius.

The Met Office said cold and dry weather is likely to prevail in the province and "moderate to dense fog" is likely to persist over Sukkur, Rohri, Shikarpur, Mohenjo-Daro and surrounding areas.

Woman chained at DHA flat rescued

KARACHI: A woman who was unlawfully confined and chained to a bed in the Defence Housing Authority (DHA) area was rescued by police on Saturday.

South DIG Syed Asad Raza told *Dawn* that police received a call about a woman unlawfully confined and bound with chains in a third-floor flat in Darakhshan Commercial Area.

A police team was sent to the location. As the flat was found locked from the inside, police broke open the lock and entered the apartment in the presence of neighbours, the DIG said. "Inside the bedroom, a woman was found with iron chains tied around her neck, hands and feet. The chains were cut and the woman was freed," he added.

The victim, a resident of Shireen Jinnah Colony, alleged that her ex-husband called her to the flat under the pretext of giving her money for their children. When she arrived at about 9am, her ex-husband and his friend allegedly confined her in the bedroom and chained her to the bed.

She stated she managed to break the bed to get free, escaped to the balcony and raised alarm to draw attention. Neighbours alerted police.—Staff Reporter

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Abstract Submission Deadline: 20th January 2026
Abstract Acceptance Notification: 25th January 2026
Paper Submission Deadline: 3rd February 2026
Conference Date: 11th February 2026

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